



August 2004 Edition

Acquisition Update

In response to comments received regarding previous amendments of the Screening Information Request (SIR), two additional amendments were issued. Amendment 002 of the SIR was released on July 1, 2004, and Amendment 003 was released on July 15, 2004. Both amendments can be accessed on the Office of Competitive Sourcing website at <http://www.faa.gov/aca/afss/documents.htm>. The SIR data is posted under Competition Documents.

Five technical proposals were received by the August 3, 2004, deadline. Prior to the start of the evaluation, a compliance check was accomplished to ensure that each proposal met the overall requirements of the solicitation.

One contest (protest) is ongoing. Wally Pike, President of the National Association of Air Traffic Specialists, filed a contest on July 19, 2004, alleging that the SIR was unduly restrictive of competition and requested that the competition and receipt and evaluation of proposals be suspended pending a ruling on the merits of the contest.

In exchange for the Office of Competitive Sourcing's agreement not to have a performance decision before October 17, 2004 (90 days from the date of the contest), the Office of Dispute Resolution for Acquisition (ODRA) allowed the acquisition to proceed. It normally takes 60 days for an ODRA decision on the merits of a contest. ODRA did say that if the contest has not concluded within the 90 days, it may ask the agency to further delay the performance award.

ODRA rules outline how contests will be handled and can be found at <http://www.faa.gov/agc/odra/default.htm>. Procurement activities will continue during the contest unless ODRA determines otherwise. Each contest filed must be adjudicated utilizing the ODRA process.

Proprietary information associated with contests is not generally released.

The cost proposals are due September 3, 2004.

The next step of the acquisition process is the Capability Assessment (CA). The CA provides a forum for each Potential Service Provider (PSP) to further clarify and substantiate its written proposal. PSPs will also answer any questions identified by the government during their presentation. The CA will help the agency gain the most complete understanding of the PSP's proposed solution and implementation approach.

Technical Proposals Received

FAA Most Efficient Organization (MEO)

Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC)

Lockheed Martin Corporation

Northrop Grumman Corporation

Raytheon Company

Human Resources Action Team – Process for Answering Questions

The process for handling personnel-related questions is being revised to improve responsiveness to questions received. Nancy Kalinowski and Jack Nimmo have been designated as the points of contact (POC) for Automated Flight Service Station (AFSS) personnel to direct questions which are not addressed via the Office of Human Resource Management (AHR) A-76 website.

The POCs will receive, review, clarify and answer questions received from field personnel. If they are



unable to answer a question, it will be forwarded to the appropriate HR program office to answer. The program office will return the question, with an answer, to the POC. The POC will identify the appropriate avenue for response, whether it is a reply to the individual, post on the AHR website, etc.

The change in process should result in more timely answers. Suzanne Hynes remains the POC for acquisition-related questions.

Highlighted Recently Asked Questions

After Cost Proposals are received, will the Most Efficient Organization (MEO) Team post all of the data on the web site? Since no one can make any changes after September 3, 2004, it would be really great to see what the plan is for the future.

It would not be appropriate for the MEO's proposal to be posted on the Office of Competitive Sourcing website. The proposals are proprietary information as well as procurement-sensitive documents. They will not be shared by the Office of Competitive Sourcing. If the MEO's proposal were shared, the other vendors could potentially use the information to improve their competitive position.

It seems the communication effort to field personnel has been turned up a notch. What's going on?

The FAA Administrator has brought in a top-tier communication person to lead the communication effort. As a result, there has been an increase in communication with field personnel from a variety of sources.

Ms. Blakey sent out a letter to all AFSS employees which stated that "... the A-76 study of automated flight services moves toward a March 2005 source selection decision..."

Was this just a generic statement or will source selection decision definitely not be made until then?

The reference to March was intended to indicate the latest possible award date.

Upon contract award, phase-in can begin, which is set to last 6 months. Assuming a private vendor wins the award, will AFSS personnel continue to be government employees during the phase-in or could they be instantly switched over as private contract employees (assuming they choose to work for them)?

AFSS personnel will continue to be government employees during the phase-in period. If a contractor wins the competition, it is during the phase-in that they prepare to take over the service. Separations would be effective at the end of the phase-in period (which is the beginning of the transition period). Also note that the phase-in period could run from 6-9 months.

What is the difference between the phase-in period and the transition period?

Following the performance award, the phase-in period will last six months and may include up to three one-month option periods. As stated in the previous question and answer, AFSS personnel will continue to be government employees during the phase-in period, regardless of who wins the competition. The phase-in period allows the service provider time to prepare to assume responsibility for existing facilities 6-9 months after the performance award. Upon approval by the agency, the winning service provider will implement their transition plan.

The transition period immediately follows the phase-in period and can last up to three years. The service provider is responsible for the performance of all services described in the contract from day one of the transition period. The transition period allows the service provider time to strategically move to its most efficient manner of doing business.

